

# CASA OF PINAL COUNTY

*CASA Updates November 2020*

## Happy Thanksgiving!



**With the world around us being turned upside down, this is the perfect time to count our blessings.**

**The work you do on behalf of our children is full of kindness and compassion. We are grateful.**

**This Thanksgiving will be different. But our hearts are still full as we wish YOU a very special day.**

***In kindness and thanks,***

**Your CASA Team -**

**Donna, Pam, Emily, Amanda  
Jodi, Lisa, Michelle, John**



## 11 Characteristics of an Effective Advocate

**Fearlessness:** They “run into the fire”, like first responders who bravely and willingly enter into the scary and messy work of helping victims.

**Discerning:** As they understand the needs, values and priorities of the people they are working with, they are able to make good quick decisions based on information available at the time.

**Adaptable:** They are able to change on the fly with the needs of the moment.

**Integrity:** Their character is honorable and consistent. They are trustworthy and dependable.

**Leader:** They are willing to lead even when they don’t have the title or authority.

**Initiative:** Willingness to break normative barriers by taking appropriate action that others are unaware of or are unwilling to do. (e.g. clearing the courtroom)

**Principled:** They have a solid rod down their spine that instills peace and respect with everyone they work with. They have a grounding that is unmovable because it’s based on foundational principles.

**Emotional Stability:** They are healthy enough to be able to be a source of strength to victims exhibiting compassion without becoming weak.

**Approachable:** They are a healthy person that “feels” safe because they are engaging, humble and understanding.

**Confident:** They are solid in their self-identity so that they are not perceived as weak or insecure.

**Team Player:** They have the ability to work independently, but also as part of a team with an attitude of helpfulness and adding value to the team.



Here are the upcoming scheduled **Peer Support Group** meetings for **December**:



If you want to participate in any of the PSGs above, **be sure to let us know by sending an RSVP** to Jodi at [jwheeler@courts.az.gov](mailto:jwheeler@courts.az.gov) and be on the look out for the Zoom meeting invitation. We can't wait to see your smiling faces! Stay safe - stay healthy!



It is important to always keep your **contact information** updated in your Dashboard so that our office and, most importantly, your coordinator always has the correct phone # and address for you!

# DON'T FORGET ABOUT THESE WEBINARS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES...

## Jacob's Law Training

Arizona House Bill 2442 was passed into law in 2016, and helped to correct many issues facing foster, kinship and adopted children who receive behavioral health services. This training covers the following:

- Overview of Jacob's Law,
- Review and Use of the DCS Placement Packet,
- Legal Rights & Protections for Children and Resource Parents, and
- Covered Services.

Training length is 2 hours. Certificates available upon request. Click on one of the dates below to register for the training date that works best for you.

**Friday December 4, 2020 - 1:00pm - 3:00pm**  
**Friday December 11, 2020 - 5:00pm - 7:00pm**

# 2020

## FOSTER KINSHIP ADOPTIVE FORUMS

**This is a recurring invite for the remainder of the 2020 forums which take place the 1st Tuesday of every month**

### [Join Meeting](#)

Password: 126461

Meeting URL:

<https://centene.zoom.us/j/96685020602?pwd=cWFleVFkM1A3N0lVWWVlL3ZaNDRIUT09>

### [Join by Telephone](#)

Dial: (646) 931- 3860 or (669) 444 - 9171

Meeting ID: 966 8502 0602

Password: 126461



## Dependent Children's Services Division Administrative Office of the Courts

The Court Improvement Program is happy to announce registration for this year's *VIRTUAL* Court Teams for Infants and Toddlers annual meeting. The agenda will feature presentations on the critical nature of visits (Marty Beyer, Ph.D.) and exciting new DCS services. County teams will also have a chance to set goals for the upcoming year to guide efforts to help these fragile children and their families.

**December 4, 2020 - 8:30am to 12:30pm**

**FREE!**

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**

Court Team Members – Your team could include:

- Judicial Officer
- CTIT Coordinator
- DCS Representative
- AzEIP Provider
- Behavioral Health Provider
- Attorney(s)
- Other possible representatives – CASA, Tribe, Foster Parent, Foster Care Licensing Agency, Parent Ally/Partner

## \*DON'T FORGET\*

**If you have attended, or are planning to attend, any of the trainings and webinars shown in the updates, make sure to log the time in your dashboard so your coordinator will know you've put in the time!**

# ★ Gift Card Drive! ★

## FOR THOSE IN EXTENDED FOSTER CARE

This holiday season we are collecting gift cards to be donated to young adults in extended foster care in Arizona. While the holidays this year may be looking different for many of us, we want to show those ages 18-21 who remain in voluntary care a special kind of support that we believe will be very much appreciated.

Many young adults who remain in extended foster care are working hard to create futures that they have dreamt of while being children in the Arizona foster care system. These young adults may be struggling to have many of the comforting things this time of year. Family support, plentiful meals, financial means may not be readily available to these young adults, but as a community we can come together to provide a little more comfort and cheer this time of the year.

We are graciously asking for the support of the great community we all live and serve in, to help us in this effort to make the holiday season shine a little brighter for these special young adults. Please consider donating gift cards to grocery stores, fast food, restaurants, clothing stores for adults/children, department stores., etc..

All donations need to be collected by Thursday, December 17th to ensure they can be received by the holiday. Please contact **Stephanie Lewis-Smale** at 520-866-4425 or [slewis-smale@courts.az.gov](mailto:slewis-smale@courts.az.gov) to make arrangements or for any questions.





## TRAINING SUPERSTARS!

*These CASAs took the annual 12 hours of training requirement to a whole other level!*

### Deb Hoopengartner - 70.83 hours

Sande Hamberg - 69.25

Hilario Pulido - 51

Pat Wheeler - 48.55

Paula Gibson - 42.5

### 30+ hours:

Linda Morris-Levan - 37.75

Beth Chism - 36.3

Twila Perucci - 36

Sue Ruohomaki - 32.25

Rowe Harting - 31.25

Shannon Eason - 30

Bobbi Seabolt - 30

### 20+ hours:

Marian Feeney - 26

Barbie Marley - 25.76

Anne Lewis - 24

Dana Johanson - 22

Michelle Jones - 20

### CASAs with more than 12 hours:

Mary Gallas - 19.5

Jane Pickens - 19

Karen Malek - 17.75

Aisha Malone - 17.5

Roy Ruohomaki - 17.25

Keith Eason - 17

Katie Trast - 17

Georgene Carruthers - 16

Deb Cunningham - 16

Cathy Bednarz - 15.5

Cindy Johnson - 15.5

Al Luther - 15

Cathy Reid - 14.85

Stephanie Schmutzler - 14

Alice Estes - 14

Heather Atwood - 13.75

Victoria Obergfoll - 13.5

Kathy Musick - 12.5

Helena Herceg - 12.1



*Welcome*

SUCHELA BENITEZ

DANIELLE LEE

DESIREE KNEIP

DAVID LEE

DONICA FORENSICH

*NEW CASAs!*

*NOVEMBER*

*BIRTHDAYS*

KEITH EASON - 4TH

SANDY HAWVER - 5TH

STEVE PRICKETT- 12TH

HELENA HERCEG - 13TH

JENNIFER MARTIN - 18TH

KATIE TRAST - 18TH

DEB CUNNINGHAM - 21ST

NIKKI TAVASSOLI - 23RD

SIMONE TAVASSOLI - 23RD

*Happy CASA-versary*

CINDY JOHNSON - 4 YEARS

KATHY MUSICK - 9 YEARS